

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT

1938

ISSUED JULY, 1939.

Ledbury Rural District Council.

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL.

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VICE-CHAIRMAN : H. J. STEDMAN, Esq.

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Miss H. Wadsworth

S. E. Warner, Esq.

S. Weston, Esq.

E. Winter, Esq.

*County Councillor, Herefordshire County Council

Ledbury Rural District Council.

BYELAWS IN FORCE IN THE DISTRICT.

Byelaws are in operation in the District with respect to the following :—

The Accommodation of Fruit and Hop-pickers.

Slaughterhouses.

New Buildings.

Ledbury Rural District Council.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health :

LEO FAY, M.D., D.P.H. (Resigned 31st March, 1938).

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Appointed 1st April, 1938).

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health :

P. G. HANCOX, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES,
ALTON STREET, ROSS-ON-WYE.

TELEPHONE—Ross 214.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor :

E. E. JORDAN, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor (Temporary) :

E. G. WATKINS,

COUNCIL OFFICES,
SOUTHEND, LEDBURY.

TELEPHONE—Ledbury 130.

Ledbury Rural District Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNTY COUNCIL OFFICES,
ALTON STREET,
ROSS-ON-WYE.

February, 1939.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Ledbury Rural
District Council.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit my first Annual Report on the Health Services of your District for the year ending 31st December, 1938.

It will be appreciated that I was not responsible for the direction of your health services throughout the entire year, as I did not take over my duties in succession to Dr. Fay until the 1st April, 1938.

The health of the District has been good throughout the year, in spite of the fact that an influx of visitors occurs during the summer for camping and hop-picking.

I am pleased to report that the Council have made good progress in dealing with unfit dwellings, and that the laboratory and hospital services have been slightly extended.

In conclusion, I take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to my colleagues, Mr. H. W. Orme, Clerk to the Council, Mr. A. T. Thomas, Financial Officer, and Mr. E. E. Jordan, Sanitary Inspector, who have at all times given me much assistance and support during the difficult period of becoming conversant with the problems of my new appointment.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

WILLIAM HOGG,

Medical Officer of Health.

LEDBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT of the MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1938.

SECTION A.: STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) : 49,867.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population, mid-1938 : 8,195.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1938) according to Rate Books : 2,332.

Rateable Value : £31,876.

Sum represented by a penny rate : £124 18s. 9d.

Social Conditions.

The Rural District of Ledbury lies in the East of the County of Herefordshire, surrounding the small town of Ledbury.

The District is almost entirely rural in character, and the principal industry is agriculture. In addition to the cultivation of crops, dairy farming, stock-rearing, hop growing and fruit farming are extensively carried on. Such manufacturing processes as exist in the District depend mainly upon these activities. There is a jam factory near Ledbury, and a saw-mill and fruit canning factory in the parish of Colwall. In the latter parish, which has some slight reputation as a health resort, there are also two mineral water factories which utilise spring water arising from the Malvern Hills.

Unemployment.

There appears to be little unemployment in the District, and I have been unable to discover any direct evidence to show that unemployment has exercised any significant influence on the health or physique of either adults or children.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

		Total. M. F.				
Live Births :	Legitimate	112	49	63	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : 14·8	
	Illegitimate	9	4	5		
Stillbirths	...	...	1	1	Nil. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births : 8·2
Deaths	95	47	48	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population : (Crude) 11·6
Adjusted Death Rate (Factor					0·79) : 9·2	

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES

(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List) :

		Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29	Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
No. 30	Other Puerperal causes ...	Nil	Nil
Total	... ..	Nil	Nil

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE :

All infants per 1,000 live births	... ..	24·8
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... ..	17·9
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	... ..	111·0
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... ..	12
„ „ Measles (all ages)	... ..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	... ..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	... ..	Nil

SECTION B.: GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Public Health Officers.

A list of the Public Health Officers of the Authority is given on page 5 of this Report.

Laboratory Facilities.

A comprehensive laboratory service for the District is provided by the Herefordshire County Council at the County and City Laboratory, County Offices, Hereford, which carries out the usual bacteriological and clinical pathological examinations. Medical practitioners may send specimens from patients residing in the District for examination without charge, and I regard this service as being of great value to the District.

In addition to the above, the Laboratory also undertakes the chemical and bacteriological examination of water on behalf of the Council.

When necessary, swabs for virulence tests in connection with Diphtheria outbreaks are sent to the Bacteriological Department of the University of Birmingham, as the County and City Laboratory cannot as yet undertake these tests.

The following is a summary of the number of specimens examined at the County and City Laboratory from the District during the year :—

Swabs for Diphtheria	...	...	52
Swabs for Streptococci	...	...	12
Sputa	...	...	17
Blood	...	...	2
Faeces	...	...	2
Water: Chemical	...	...	62
Bacteriological	...	...	63
<hr/>			
Total	...	...	210

This shews that the amount of work from the District carried out in the Laboratory during the year has increased considerably, the total number of specimens examined during 1937 being only 127.

Ambulance Facilities.

When necessary, cases of infectious disease are removed to the Hereford Rural District Council's Isolation Hospital by the motor ambulance which is stationed at that Hospital.

The Rural District Council do not own any ambulance, but the services of the ambulances stationed at Ledbury and Malvern are available for the use of the residents in the District in non-infectious cases

I consider these facilities to be adequate for the needs of the District.

Nursing in the Home.

The Herefordshire County Nursing Association has made arrangements whereby the services of a District Nurse are available in every parish, in the capacity of midwife, maternity nurse or for general nursing in the homes of patients.

There are six such District Nurses in the District, and they are stationed at Aylton, Perrystone, Colwall, Tarrington, Stretton Grandison and Cradley.

Treatment Centres and Clinics.

A Child Welfare Clinic is held fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons in the parish of Colwall, the average attendance per session being 19.

That portion of the District immediately surrounding Ledbury is served by the Ledbury Infant Welfare Centre, sessions of which are held in the Parish Room on alternate Tuesday afternoons.

The Tuberculosis Dispensary is held at Homend Lodge Cottages, Ledbury, on the morning preceding the meeting of the Ledbury Infant Welfare Centre.

Cases of Venereal Disease are referred to the County Clinic at Hereford for diagnosis and treatment.

A voluntary Orthopaedic Clinic is held fortnightly at the Parish Room, Ledbury, from which suitable cases are referred to the parent Clinic at Hereford or to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, for treatment.

Hospitals.

There are no hospitals in the District, and the needs of all cases requiring hospital treatment are served by the hospitals in Ledbury, Malvern or Worcester.

When necessary, cases of infectious disease are removed to the Hereford Rural District Council's Hospital situated at Stretton Sugwas, removal being effected by the motor ambulance stationed at the Hospital.

SECTION C. : SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

There are few piped supplies in the District, the greater part of which is dependant upon shallow wells.

The following Table summarises the particulars regarding supplies available in each parish :—

PARISH	WATER SUPPLIES AVAILABLE.
Ashperton	One public well and private shallow wells.
Aylton	Private shallow wells.
Bosbury	Private shallow wells.
Castle Frome ..	Private shallow wells.
Canon Frome ..	Private shallow wells
Coddington	One public well and private shallow wells.
Colwall	Piped supply of the Malvern Urban District Council, and one private piped supply. There are also a few private shallow wells.
Donnington	A small private piped supply and private shallow wells.
Eggleton	Private shallow wells.
Eastnor	A private piped supply and a few private shallow wells.
Ledbury Rural ..	A few houses are supplied by the piped supply of the Ledbury Urban District Council, and the remainder by private shallow wells.
Little Marcle ..	Private shallow wells.
Much Marcle ..	A private piped supply, four public wells, and many private shallow wells.
Mathon	Private shallow wells.
Munsley	Private shallow wells.
Pixley	Private shallow wells.
Putley	Two public wells and many private shallow wells.
Stretton Grandison ..	Private shallow wells.
Tarrington	Two private piped supplies, one public well, and private shallow wells.
Wellington Heath ..	Two public wells and many private shallow wells.
Woolhope	One public spring, three public wells, and many private shallow wells.
Yarkhill	A piped supply is available for part of the parish, the remainder being served by private shallow wells.

Generally speaking, the supplies appear to be adequate for the needs of the various parishes of the District, with the exception of those for the parish of Wellington Heath, which at times become inadequate for the requirements of the residents.

As regards the quality of the water for domestic use, many of the shallow wells appear to be polluted, and such supplies, whilst being the only supplies available in the District, cannot be as satisfactory as piped supplies. Owing to the large number of wells in use, much time has necessarily to be devoted to their supervision.

During the year, 96 samples of water were submitted to the County and City Laboratory for analysis, of which 51 were for chemical and 45 for bacteriological examination. 23 of these samples were found to be unfit for drinking purposes on chemical examination, and 32 were found to be unsatisfactory on bacteriological examination.

Where a piped supply is in existence, an endeavour is made to have one chemical and one bacteriological examination made each year, but this is not always possible.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Part of the parish of Colwall has sewers available, and sewage disposal works are provided. No extensions have been carried out to the sewers during the year, although a small extension is desirable as this would afford main drainage for a number of houses. The Council have had this matter under consideration, but the work was not proceeded with during the year. Five additional premises were connected to the existing sewers.

A small public sewer is in use in the parish of Bosbury, but all other parishes are without sewers. During the year, 88 house drains were laid or relaid.

The Council have at present under consideration a scheme for improving the sewage disposal works in the parish of Colwall.

Rivers and Streams.

During the year, complaints were received regarding the pollution of the River Leadon. Whilst I am satisfied that pollution is present at the time of writing this Report, my investigations are not yet complete, but a full report on the matter will be presented to the Council as soon as the necessary facts have been obtained.

Complaint has also been received regarding the pollution of the Cradley Brook by the effluent from the Colwall Sewage Disposal Works. This matter has been before the Council for some time, and a scheme has been prepared for the improvement of the nature of the effluent prior to discharge into the Brook.

Closet Accommodation.

Both the watercarriage system and conservancy systems are in use in the District, the greater number of waterclosets being in the parish of Colwall.

During the year, 10 new waterclosets were provided, and 5 were connected to the sewers in Colwall. 24 privies were converted to pail closets and 7 to waterclosets, and 3 pail closets were converted to waterclosets.

Public Cleansing.

Whilst a collection of refuse is very desirable, it is not practicable in many of the parishes owing to the scattered nature of the houses and the area which would have to be covered.

A collection of house refuse is, however, in operation in the parish of Colwall the refuse being disposed of by tipping. This scheme remains very satisfactory.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The Sanitary Inspector for the District, Mr. E. E. Jordan, has throughout the year discharged his duties in a most capable manner with the assistance of Mr. E. G. Watkins.

Whilst Mr. Watkins was appointed primarily in a temporary capacity to enable the Sanitary Inspector to deal with the much increased work during the hop-picking season, his services have been found to be of great value to the Council at other times. In view of the increased work of the Department, I am satisfied that Mr. Watkins should be appointed as a permanent officer of the Council if the present high standard of work is to be maintained by the Sanitary Inspector.

I am indebted to the Sanitary Inspector for the following Statement, furnished in accordance with Article 27 (Sub-section 18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, for the year ending 31st December, 1938 :—

Inspections :

Building Byelaws...	...	...	68
Bakehouses	...	...	17
Dairies and Cowsheds	...	...	118
Factories with Mechanical Power	...	...	2
Factories without Mechanical Power	...	...	18
Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	186
Other Housing Inspections	...	...	204
Hop-pickers' Quarters	...	...	167
Infectious Disease	...	...	34
Nuisances	...	...	56
Schools	...	...	2
Slaughterhouses	...	...	32
Water Supplies	...	...	122
Miscellaneous	...	...	153
Total			1,179

Notices Issued :

Informal	...	...	109
Statutory, re Housing	...	...	1
Statutory, under other Acts	...	...	1
Total			111

Summary of Defects Remedied :

New Wells Sunk	...	...	6
Wells Cleansed and Repaired	...	...	7
Houses supplied from Waterworks	...	...	2
House Drains Laid or Relaid	...	...	88
Drains Cleansed, Trapped and Ventilated	...	...	38
Defective Waste Pipes Rectified	...	...	22
Defective W.C.s, Sinks and Urinals Rectified	...	...	17
Drains and Sanitary Fittings Repaired	...	...	12
New W.C.s Provided	...	...	10
Disinfections after Infectious Disease	...	...	18
Houses Cleansed and Limewashed	...	...	18
Privies Converted to Pail Closets	...	...	24
Privies Converted to Waterclosets	...	...	7
Pail Closets Converted to Waterclosets	...	...	3
Total			272

Common Lodging Houses.

There are no common lodging houses in the District.

Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

There were 16 factories with mechanical power and 8 factories without mechanical power registered with the Local Authority at the end of the year. These include a large jam factory, a saw mill, and two aerated water manufactories.

All these premises are periodically inspected, and I am satisfied that, generally, the provisions of the Factories Act, 1937, are well observed. During the year, four offences were discovered and remedied.

The following Tables give particulars of the work carried out in the District during the year in connection with the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, and the Factories Act, 1937, (which superseded the Act of 1901 on 1st July, 1938).

1.—Inspections for Purposes of Provisions as to Health.

(Including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections (2)	Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
Factories with mechanical power	2	—	—
Factories without mechanical power	18	4	—
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	3	—	—
Totals	23	4	—

2.—Defects Found.

Particulars.	Number of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
Want of Cleanliness (S. 1) ..	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S. 2)	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S. 3)	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S. 4) ..	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6)	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) {	Insufficient	—	—	—
	Unsuitable or defective	—	—	—
	Not separate for sexes	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re-enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	4	4	—	—
Totals	4	4	Nil	Nil

Outwork in Unwholesome Premises.

(Section 108 of Act of 1901 ; Section III of Act of 1937)	Nil.
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Hop-pickers' Quarters.

Hop pickers' quarters are provided on 78 farms in the District during the month of September, when the hops are picked.

It is estimated that the number of pickers, including children, who were lodged in such quarters during the 1938 season was approximately 4,500, the numbers at the various farms varying in accordance with the size of the crops cultivated.

Although the accommodation in every instance complies with the Byelaws in operation in the District, its nature nevertheless varies very considerably, consisting in some cases merely of the existing farm buildings adapted for the temporary occupation of the pickers, whilst in others special buildings for pickers have been provided. In cases where such special buildings have been erected, I have no doubt whatever that the accommodation is superior to that provided by the adaptation of existing farm buildings, and that less interference with ordinary farm work is caused. I should, therefore, be glad to see more of this special accommodation provided by the producers for the pickers who are essential for the gathering of the crops.

During the 1938 season, however, the accommodation shewed a slight improvement on that for the previous season, and although progress in this direction is somewhat slow, an effort is made each year to secure improved conditions.

This industry throws much additional work upon the Department, as preparations for the reception of the pickers need to be carefully supervised, and constant supervision by the Sanitary Inspector is necessary throughout the season. In addition, much time has to be devoted after the close of the season to securing the removal of litter, whilst difficulty is experienced with pickers who continue to occupy tents, caravans and other buildings long after the picking has finished. It will be seen, therefore, that this Department has to exercise supervision over the industry from the beginning of August until well into the following year.

Owing to the large number of children accompanying the pickers, the incidence of infectious disease increases largely during the season, thereby adding considerably to the responsibility of the Council. Cases of infectious disease are not usually notified in the ordinary way by a medical practitioner in the district, but information regarding cases of illness amongst the pickers is usually forwarded to me by the employers, the District Nurses or the Sanitary Inspector, upon receipt of which I make visits of investigation. Four such cases were discovered during the 1938 season, and four other cases occurring in the District probably arose through contact with hop-pickers. In addition, three children who had returned to their homes as a result of illness were found to be suffering from infectious disease on arrival at their destination.

Shops.

No action has been taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936.

Camping Sites.

Whilst the District has much rural charm, the number of campers during the year does not appear to be very large. The greater part of the camping takes place in Eastnor Park, where camps of Boy Scouts are held during the month of August. It is difficult to estimate the number of motor trailer caravans which were in the District during the year, for these seldom remain more than one night on any particular site, but it was nevertheless small.

The following are particulars relating to camping sites, for the year 1938 :—

(1) Number of sites in the area which were used for camping purposes during 1938	...	...	...	5
(2) Number of camping sites in respect of which licences have been issued by the Local Authority under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936	...	...	...	Nil
(3) Estimated maximum number of campers resident in the area at one time during the summer season, 1938	...	...	...	500

Smoke Abatement.

This problem does not arise within the District.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are three privately owned swimming pools in the District, which were open to the public during the year. Two of these are in the parish of Colwall, and each has a proper purification plant. Samples of the water were taken for analysis, and were found to be of an excellent standard of purity.

The other privately owned swimming pool is situated in the parish of Eastnor, and on analysis the water was found to be unsatisfactory. This pool has no purification plant, and in view of the condition of the water the Trustees closed the pool to the public on my advice, until the necessary improvements have been carried out.

The swimming pool owned by the Ledbury Urban District Council is situated in the parish of Ledbury Rural, but has not been in use at any time during the year.

There is one private swimming bath at a boarding school in the parish of Colwall, for the use of the school. This is entirely satisfactory.

During the year, seven samples of swimming pool water were submitted to the County and City Laboratory, Hereford, for bacteriological examination. Five of these were found to be satisfactory, and two (from the Eastnor Pool) unsatisfactory.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

This problem seldom appears to arise in the District, and no privately owned or Council houses were found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.

If necessary, fumigation would be carried out by the Sanitary Inspector, who has a stock of "Cescones" for this purpose. No inspection of tenants' belongings is made before their removal to houses provided by the Council.

Schools.

Several of the schools in the District are small old-fashioned buildings with amenities which fall far below modern standards. In one case, the water supply was found to be unfit for drinking purposes.

No serious outbreak of infectious disease occurred amongst the school-children during the year, but Whooping Cough, Measles and Mumps were prevalent. The following Table gives details of the schools closed for health reasons :—

School Closures.

School.	Period.	Cause.
Wellington Heath Infants	22/2/38— 25/2/38	Coughs and Colds
Stretton Grandison & Eggleton	4/3/38— 25/3/38	Coughs, Colds & Mumps
Coddington	26/4/38— 20/5/38	Whooping Cough
Much Marcle	7/6/38— 17/6/38	Measles
Ashperton and Canon Frome	11/10/38—21/10/38	Whooping Cough
Wellington Heath Infants	16/11/38—25/11/38	Coughs and Colds

SECTION D. : HOUSING.

1.—Inspection of Dwelling-houses During the Year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	.. ..	163
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	204
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	.. ..	147
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.. ..	186
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	.. ..	37
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	.. ..	17

2.—Remedy of Defects During the Year Without Service of Formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. 14

3.—Action Under Statutory Powers During the Year :—

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | Nil. |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil. |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- | | |
|--|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 1 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :— | |
| (a) By owners | 1 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners | Nil |

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made | 24 |
| (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | Nil. |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

- | | |
|---|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit | Nil. |

4. Housing Act, 1936, Part IV—Overcrowding.

- | | |
|---|------|
| (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. | 19 |
| (ii) Number of families dwelling therein | 19 |
| (iii) Number of persons dwelling therein | 113 |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year | Nil. |
| (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. | 18 |
| (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases | 108 |
| (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding :— | |

There were no cases of overcrowding recurring after abatement had been secured by the Local Authority.

The Council have continued to make good progress during the year in the improvement of housing conditions in the District by making the fullest use of all their powers for dealing with unfit houses.

During the year, 30 houses were found to be unfit for human habitation, and 24 Demolition Orders were made, whilst 14 houses were rendered fit. In addition, 23 dwellings were reconstructed with the aid of grants under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.

The number of dwellings remaining overcrowded at the end of 1937 was 37. No further cases were discovered during 1938, but 18 cases were relieved, leaving only 19 cases outstanding at the end of the year. I consider that these figures are an indication of very satisfactory progress being made.

The number of new houses erected in the District during the year was 47, and of these 44 were erected by the Council. I consider that the provision of more new houses by the Council for the relief of overcrowding and to provide accommodation for families residing in dwellings in respect of which Demolition Orders have been made, is the most urgent housing requirement of the District.

SECTION E.: INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are now 198 premises in the District registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.

The number of inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector under the Order in 1938 was 118. Conditions under which milk is produced are generally very satisfactory: indeed, in some cases the conditions of production are of the highest standard. Periodic limewashing of all cowsheds is regularly carried out.

No samples of milk were submitted for examination for bacterial content or for the presence of tubercle bacilli during the year.

Meat and Other Foods.

There are four Registered Slaughterhouses and one Licensed Slaughterhouse in the District, all of which are regularly inspected, and as many carcasses as possible examined.

As in all rural areas, however, where a number of widely separated slaughterhouses are in existence, it is difficult to exercise adequate supervision.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle ex- cluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)...		<i>Not</i>	<i>known</i>		
Number inspected ...	53	14	31	106	72
All Diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcases condemned.	—	—	1	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	—	—	1	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuber- culosis.	—	—	6.45%	—	1.38%
Tuberculosis only.					
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	—	—	—	—	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	—	—	—	—	—

In this District, it is not possible for any ante-mortem inspection of animals to be carried out.

There is no meat marking scheme under Part III of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations, 1924, in operation in the District.

Adulteration, Etc.

The Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, is administered by the Police on behalf of the Herefordshire County Council.

Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.

The County and City Laboratory, Hereford, is prepared to undertake a certain amount of bacteriological examination of food, e.g., milk for tubercle bacilli, and food in suspected cases of food poisoning.

Nutrition.

No special action has been taken by the Council during the year to increase the knowledge of the public on the subject of nutrition, but advice on this subject is freely given to the mothers attending the Colwall Infant Welfare Centre.

Shell-Fish (Molluscan).

As this is an inland District, there are no shell-fish beds or layings.

This class of fish is seldom consumed by the residents of the area, and there are no purveyors of such within the boundaries of the Rural District. The small quantity eaten is purchased in the neighbouring towns of Hereford, Ledbury and Malvern.

No action was therefore necessary during the year under the Public Health (Shell-Fish) Regulations, 1934, or the Public Health (Cleansing of Shell-Fish) Act, 1932.

SECTION F.: PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The health of the inhabitants of the District generally has been good throughout the year, there being no serious epidemics of notifiable infectious disease.

The total number of notifications received was 25, 15 of these being on account of Scarlet Fever. Four of the cases of Scarlet Fever occurred amongst the hop-pickers, and two cases of Diphtheria occurred in a Boy Scouts' Camp; all necessary precautions were taken to prevent the spread of infection, and no further cases occurred.

When necessary, cases of notifiable infectious disease are removed to the Isolation Hospital of the Hereford Rural District Council, situated at Stretton Sugwas, by the motor ambulance stationed at the Hospital. During the year, 21 cases were treated in the Hospital, in which the Council have reserved two beds. The present agreement, however, provides for the treatment of three diseases only, viz., Smallpox, Scarlet Fever and Diphtheria. Consequently, in the event of a case of Smallpox being admitted, all other cases would be immediately discharged to their homes and only Smallpox cases admitted. I do not consider these arrangements as being adequate for the needs of the area, as the accommodation for cases of Smallpox should be additional and not supplementary to that for other diseases. In my opinion, also, the present agreement should be extended to provide for the admission of cases of such diseases as Typhoid Fever and Erysipelas in addition to the three diseases specified.

I am pleased to report that the Council have now agreed that cases of Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis may be admitted to the Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital, Oswestry, and have resolved to meet the cost of removal and treatment at this Hospital for a period of six weeks, i.e., for the period during which the disease is usually regarded as being infectious. It is hoped that any further treatment such cases may require can be provided under the Orthopaedic Scheme of the Herefordshire County Council.

The Council provide Diphtheria Anti-toxin free of charge to registered medical practitioners for use in connection with cases of Diphtheria arising in the District, this Anti-toxin being obtainable either from this Department or from Messrs. Chave & Jackson, of Hereford. During the year, 18,000 units of this were supplied.

Immunisation against Diphtheria is also afforded free of charge by the Council to those who wish to avail themselves of this service. During the year, no such treatment was carried out, although a number of requests were received at the end of December. These will be dealt with during 1939.

As far as possible, all contacts of cases of Diphtheria are swabbed.

Treatment for Puerperal Pyrexia is provided by the Herefordshire County Council under their Scheme for Maternity and Child Welfare.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year 1938.

DISEASE.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths.
Smallpox	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	15	13	—
Diphtheria	7	7	—
Enteric Fever	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	1	—	—
Pneumonia	1	1	—
Erysipelas	1	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—

Analysis of the Total Notified Cases according to age.

DISEASE	AGE GROUPS.													Totals
	Un- der 1	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—	10—	15—	20—	35—	45—	65 and over		
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	1	1	5	3	—	3	—	—	—	15	
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	1	—	—	—	7	
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	
TOTALS ...	—	—	2	1	1	7	4	3	5	—	2	—	25	

Prevention of Blindness.

The Council have not made any provision for the prevention of blindness under Section 176 of the Public Health Act, 1936, but the treatment of cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorum arising in the District is provided by the Herefordshire County Council as part of the Maternity and Child Welfare Scheme. Cases of venereal disease affecting the eyes are referred to the County Clinic at Hereford.

Tuberculosis.

On the 1st January, 1938, there was a total of 21 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register; of these, 14 were pulmonary and 7 non-pulmonary.

During the year, 12 notifications were received, 8 being for pulmonary and 4 for non-pulmonary disease. 13 cases (8 pulmonary and 5 non-pulmonary) were removed from the Register on account of recovery, death or change of residence, leaving a total of 20 cases (14 pulmonary and 6 non-pulmonary) on the Register at the 31st December, 1938.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	<i>Res- piratory</i>		<i>Non-Res- piratory</i>		<i>Res- piratory</i>		<i>Non-Res- piratory</i>	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5— ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15— ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25— ...	2	3	—	—	1	2	—	—
35— ...	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
45— ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55— ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	5	3	1	3	1	2	—	—

All three deaths due to Tuberculosis during the year were notified before death, such notification being carried out promptly by the medical practitioners in the District. No action was necessary during the year under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Causes of Death.

	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Influenza	1	—	1
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	1	2	3
Cancer	5	7	12
Cerebral Haemorrhage	3	6	9
Heart Disease	13	7	20
Other Circulatory Diseases	1	2	3
Bronchitis	2	2	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	5	2	7
Peptic Ulcer	—	1	1
Cirrhosis of the Liver	1	—	1
Other Liver Diseases	1	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	3	4
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	1	1
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	1	—	1
Senility	—	5	5
Suicide	—	1	1
Other Violence	2	2	4
Other Defined Diseases	9	7	16
All Causes	47	48	95

Health Education.

No special action was taken by the Council during the year for the promotion of interest in the prevention of ill-health.

Pamphlets provided by the Herefordshire County Council were, however, distributed from this Department and from the Colwall and Ledbury Infant Welfare Centres.

